



*A LETTER from an English Traveller at Rome to
K Father, of the 6th of May 1721. O. S.*

S I R,

I Have by my former Letters given you a particular Account of my Travels to the time of my departure from *Venice*. On the 20th of *March* the Honourable Mr. ----- and I arriv'd here; and the Pope's De gave us an opportunity to see all those ceremonies, which are used on solemn occasions. I have been careful in observing them, and have diged them into method, in order to entertain such of my Friends, as I find curious on return from my Travels. I have also taken some pains to be exact in my accounts of the curiosities, with which this City abounds, and I hope I shall have time enough to compleat my observations: for the time of the new *Pontif's* Coronation is so near at hand, I am resolv'd to embrace the opportunity of observing whatever may be remarkable in that solemnity.

After my arrival here I received your Letter of the 15th of *February*, which you remind me of your commands at my departure, to avoid conversing with the *PRETENDER*, or any of his dependants. In my own, that notwithstanding my inbred dislike to his pretensions, and confirmed aversion for his profession, I often found my curiosity inclin'd me to be so far acquainted with his Person and Character, that I might be able to say from my own knowlege, what sort of Man he is, who has made, and daily makes so great a noise in *England*. And I have sometimes fancied that even you yourself, *Sir*, would not be satisfied with me (after staying so long in *Rome*) I were not able to give you a particular account of him. However my regard to your special commands was always an overbalance to my curiosity, until perfect chance ordain'd the contrary. I beg leave to assure you that this is literally true; and lest you should

the misinformation on this point from any other Hand, I choose to give a particular account, how it happen'd, and shall lay nothing before in the relation but undisguis'd truth.

About a Month ago Mr. ----- and I being in search of some of the Antiquities of this place, we became acquainted with an *English* Gentleman, very knowing in this kind of learning, and who proved of great use to us; his name is Dr. *Cooper*, a Priest of the Church of *England*, whom we did not suspect to be of the PRETENDER's retinue, but took him to be a curious Traveller, which opinion created in me a great liking to his Conversation. On *Easter Eve* he made us the Compliment, that he suppos'd us bred in the profession of the said Church, he thought it incumbent on him to invite us to Divine Service (next day being *Easter day*). Such Language at *Rome* appear'd to me a jest; I star'd at the Doctor, who added that the PRETENDER (whom he called King) had prevailed with the late Pope to grant Licence for having Divine Service according to the rules of the Church of *England* perform'd in his Palace, to the Benefit of the Protestant Gentlemen of his Suite, his Domesticks and Travellers; and that one Dr. *Berkeley* and himself were appointed to the discharge of this Duty, and that Prayers were read as orderly as at *London*. I should have remain'd of St. *Thomas's* Belief, had I not been a witness, that this is matter of Fact, and as such have noted down amongst the greatest wonders of *Rome*. This was the occasion of my first entrance into the PRETENDER's House. I became familiar with both the Doctors, who are sensible well-bred Men. I put several questions to them about the PRETENDER, and if credit can be given to them, they assure me he is an upright Moral Man, very far from any sort of Bigotry, and most averse to disputes and distinctions of Religion, whereof not a word is admitted in his Family. They described him in his person very much to the resemblance of King *Charles II*, to which they say he approaches more and more every day, with a great application to business, and a head well turn'd that way, having only some Clerks, to whom he dictates such Letters, as he does not write with his own Hand. On some days after my friend and I went to take the Evening Air in the stately Park called *Villa Ludovici*; there we met on a sudden Face

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to Face with the P R E T E N D E R, his Princess and Court. We were very close, before we understood who they were, that we could not treat with decency; common civility obliged us to stand sidewise in Alley, as others did to let them pass by.

The P R E T E N D E R was easily distinguish'd by his Star and Garb as well as by an air of greatness, which discover'd a Majesty superior the rest. I felt in that instant of his approach a strange convulsion in body and mind, such as I never was sensible of before; whether Aversion, Admiration or Respect occasion'd it, I can't tell. I remark'd his Eyes fixt upon me, which I confess I could not bear. I was perfectly stunn'd, and not aware of myself, when pursuant to what the standersby did, I made him a Salute; He return'd it with a smile, which changed the sedateness of his first aspect into a very graceful countenance. As he passed by, I observed him to be a well-siz'd- clean-limb'd Man.

I had but one glimpse of the Princess, which left me a great desire of seeing her again, however my friend and I turn'd off into another Alley, to reason at leisure on our several observations; there we met Dr. *Cooper*, and after making some turns with him, the same company came again in our way. I was grown somewhat bolder, and resolv'd to let them pass as before, in order to take a full view of the Princess. She is of a middling Stature, well-shaped, and has lovely Features: Wit, Modesty and Mildness of Temper are painted in her looks. When she came up to us, the P R E T E N D E R stood, and spoke a word to the Doctor, then looking at us he ask'd him whether we were *English* Gentlemen; he ask'd us how long we had been in Town, and whether we had an acquaintance in it, then told us he had a house, where *English* Gentlemen would be very welcome. The Princess, who stood by, addressing to the Doctor in the prettiest *English* I think I ever heard, said, pray Doctor, these Gentlemen be lovers of Musick, invite them to my Consort to night: I charge you with it, which She accompany'd with a Salute, and a Smile in the most gracious manner.

It was a very hard task, Sir, to recede from the Honor of such an Invitation given by a Princess, who altho' Married to the P R E T E N D E R deserves so much respect in regard to her Person, her Name and Family.

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ever we argued the case with the Doctor, and represented the strict
 rs we had to the contrary. He reply'd, there cou'd be no prohibition
 Traveller against Musick, even at the Ceremonies of the *Roman Ca-*
ck Church, that if we miss'd this occasion of seeing this Assembly of
Roman Nobility, we might not recover it, whilst we stay'd in *Rome*;
 that it became Persons of our age and degree to act always the part of
 gentlemen without regard to party humors.

These Arguments were more forcible than ours, so we went, and saw
 a great Assembly of the prime *Roman* Nobility, the Consort compos'd
 of the best Musicians of *Rome*, a plentiful and orderly Collation served:
 the courteous and affable manner of our reception was more taking
 than all the rest. We had a general invitation given us, whilst we stay'd
 in town, and were desir'd to use that Palace as our own.

Hence we were indispensably obliged to make a Visit next day, in or-
 der to return thanks for so many civilities receiv'd: Those are things due
 to a Turk.

We were admitted without ceremony; the PRETENDER entertain'd
 us on the Subject of our Families as knowingly, as if he had been all his
 time in *England*; he told me some passages of my Grandfather, and of his
 being a constant follower of King *Charles* I. and II, and added that if you,
 had been of age before my Grandfather's death to learn his Principles,
 there had been little danger of your taking party against the rights of a
 QUART. He then observed how far the prejudices of Education,
 and wrong notions of Infancy are apt to carry People from the paths of their
 ancestors. He discours'd as pertinently on several of our neighbouring Fa-
 milies, as I could do. Upon which I told him I was surprized at his so
 perfect knowlege of our Families in *England*. His answer was, that from
 infancy he had made it his business to acquire the knowlege of the
 laws, Customs and Families of his Country, so as he might not be reput-
 ed a stranger, when the Almighty pleased to call him thither.

These and the like discourses held, until word was brought, that dinner
 was serv'd. We endeavour'd all we could to withdraw, but there was no
 possibility for it, after he had made us this compliment. I assure you,
 gentlemen, I shall never be for constraining any Man's inclinations, how-
 ever

ever our Grandfathers, who were worthy People, dined often together, and I hope there can be no fault found, that we do the same.

There is every day a regular Table of Ten, or Twelve Courses well serv'd, unto which some of the qualify'd Persons of his Court or Travellers are invited: It's supplied with *English* and *French* Cooks, *French* and *Italian* Wines, but I took notice that the PRETENDER Eat only of the *English* Dishes, and made his Dinner of Roast-Beef and what we call *Devonshire* Pye: He also prefers our *March* Beer which he has from *Leghorn*, to the best Wines. At the *Desert* he drinks his glass of *Champagne* very heartily, and to do him justice, he is as free and chearful at his Table, as any Man I know. He speaks much in favour of our *English* Ladies, and said he was persuaded, he had not many Enemies amongst them; then he carried a Health to them. The Princess with a smiling countenance took up the matter and said, I think then, Sir, it would be but just, that I drink to the *Cavaliers*. Sometime after the PRETENDER began a Health to the prosperity of all friends in *England*, which he address'd to me. I took the freedom to reply, that as I presum'd, he meant his friends, he would not take it ill, that I meant mine. I assure you, Sir, said he, that the friends you mean can have no great share of prosperity, till they become mine, therefore here's prosperity to you and mine.

After we had eat and drank very heartily, the Princess told us we must go to see her Son, which could not be refused. He is really a fine promising Child, and is attended by *English* Women, mostly Protestants, which the Princess observ'd to us, saying that, as she believ'd he was to live and die amongst Protestants, she thought fit to have him bred up by their hands; and that in the Country, where he was born, there was no other distinction, but that of honest and dishonest. These Women and particularly two *Londoners* kept such a racket about us to make us kiss the young PRETENDER'S Hand, that to get clear of them as soon as we could, we were forc'd to comply. The Princess laugh'd very heartily, and told us she did not question but the day would come, that we should not be sorry to have

le so early an acquaintance with her Son. I thought myself under a necessity of making her the compliment, that being hers he should not miss being good and happy.

On the next Post-day we went, as commonly the *English* Gentlemen here do, to the *PRETENDER'S* House for News. He had received a great many Letters, and after perusing them he told us, there was no great prospect of amendment in the affairs of *England*, that the *Secret Committee* and several other honest Men were giving abundance of pains to find out the cause of the Nations distraction: Which knowledge, when attain'd to, would avail only to the more concern to the Publick, without procuring relief; for the Authors would find means to be above the reach of the common course of justice. He bemoan'd the misfortune of *England* lying under a load of Debts, and the severest hardships, contracted and imposed to support Foreign Interests. He lamented the ill treatment, and disregard of the Ancient Nobility, and said, it gave him great trouble to see the Interest of the Nation abandon'd to the disposition of a new Set of People, who must at any rate enrich themselves by the spoil of their Country; some may imagine, continued that these calamities are not displeasing to me, because they may some measure turn to my Advantage. I renounce all such unworthy thoughts. The Love of my Country is the first principle of my ardent wishes, and my Heart bleeds to see so brave and honest a People distressed and misled by a few wicked Men, and plunged into Miseries almost irretrievable. Thereupon he rose briskly from his Chair, expressed his concern with Fire in his Eyes.

I could not disavow much of what he said; yet I own I was moved at it, for very often compassionate terms from the mouth of an adverse party are grating: It appear'd so to me on this occasion; before I replied, it's true, Sir, that our Affairs in *England* lye at present under many hardships by the *South-Sea* Mismanagements: But 'tis a constant maxim with us Protestants to undergo a great deal for the security of our Religion, which we could not depend upon under a *Romanish* Government. I know, Sir, replied he, this is the argument,
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some who have perhaps but a very slight share of Religion, do make use of, in order to delude the honest well-meaning People, who have the most of it. I assure you these latter and I should agree very well and be happy together. Then addressing to an old *English* Gentleman of the company, he said, I have been told by several of the most eminent Prelates of the Church of *Rome*, particularly my friend the late Arch-Bishop of *Cambray*, that it should never be my business to study how to be an Apostle, but how to become a good King to all my People without distinction; which shall be found true, if it please God to restore me. I have given my word in my Declarations to refer the Securities requisite in such points to the Parties themselves, that are most concerned therein; and I have never given any Person reason to doubt but I will maintain my Promises to the full. I can boldly say that none can with justice reproach me with failing in the least point of Honour, which has, and always shall be dearer to me than any Crown, or my very Life.

It was urged to him, that the *Roman Catholick Clergy*, the *Jesuits* and *Friers*, are accused of being apt to start disputes to come to their ends, and of a dangerous encroaching temper.

He answered, he had sufficient warnings before him from the troubles, in which his Father had been involved by faithless and evil Counsellors, that he was entirely of opinion, that all Clergymen authorized by the Statutes of a Nation ought to be confined to the bare duties of their Profession, and that if any of them should be found intermeddling with publick concerns, or creating disputes, to the prejudice of the good understanding, that ought to be cherished between the King and his Subjects, it was his opinion they ought to be removed out of the way of doing Mischief. He averred this should constantly be his Maxim.

I thought it full time to take leave, and break off the Conversation, as I perceive it is to finish this long Letter. I own I am not Sorry to have contented so far my curiosity, and that were it not the *PRETENDER*, I should like the Man very well. We should truly pass much of our time in dulness, had we not the

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sons of his House, but I give you my word, I will enter no
upon Arguments of this kind with him; for he has too much
and learning for me: besides that he speaks with such an Air
sincerity, that I am apprehensive, I should become half a Jaco-
if I continued following these Discourses any longer.

I crave the favour of your blessing, and remain with all dutiful
respect, &c.

F I N I S.

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